Chapter 11 Congress Balancing National Goals and Local Interests   
  
1. The framers of the Constitution saw the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the preeminent component of the federal government.   
A. Supreme Court  
B. bureaucracy  
C. Congress  
D. president  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
2. Approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percent of House incumbents win reelection.   
A. 57  
B. 65  
C. 74  
D. 82  
E. 92   
  
3. In an average election, about 1 in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ House seats is a truly competitive election.   
A. 2  
B. 3  
C. 4  
D. 5  
E. 6   
  
4. Congressional staffers spend most of their time on   
A. constituency service and legislative matters.  
B. legislative matters.  
C. constituency service and public relations.  
D. legislative matters and constituency service.  
E. public relations.   
  
5. In 2010, the average Senate race saw about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dollars in campaign spending.   
A. 2 million  
B. 4 million  
C. 8 million  
D. 15 million  
E. 34 million   
  
6. Nearly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percent of all PAC contributions go to the incumbents.   
A. 10  
B. 30  
C. 50  
D. 70  
E. 85   
  
7. Redistricting   
A. happens every 4 years.  
B. is conducted by state legislatures.  
C. must be approved by Congress.  
D. must be approved by the highest court in each state.  
E. has little appreciable effect on who wins or loses congressional races.   
  
8. Which of the following groups is overrepresented in Congress?   
A. blue-collar workers  
B. homemakers  
C. clerical workers  
D. women  
E. lawyers   
  
9. Which of the following statements is TRUE?   
A. Political parties are unimportant in the organization of the U.S. Congress.  
B. Party-line voting rarely occurs in Congress.  
C. Party-line voting has increased in recent years.  
D. Partisanship makes virtually no difference in the votes cast in Congress.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
10. In the 1970s, roll-call votes   
A. generally demonstrated the power of incumbents.  
B. generally demonstrated an increase in party loyalty.  
C. generally did not pit most Republicans against most Democrats.  
D. were less common than voice votes.  
E. were generally not used to record each member's vote.   
  
11. Compared with the Senate majority leader, the Speaker of the House has more power because   
A. the House places more limits on debate.  
B. the House is the larger chamber in terms of membership.  
C. the House has less of a tradition as a chamber of equals.  
D. the Speaker is that chamber's presiding officer.  
E. All of these answers are correct.   
  
12. Senators are generally less likely to take directions from their leaders than House members because   
A. senators are prohibited by their state legislatures from taking orders from others.  
B. senators think of themselves as being equals and are only willing to be led by persuasion.  
C. senators are more highly paid than House members and are thus immune from financial threats.  
D. House rules mandate that all party members on major bills vote according to the directions of their leaders.  
E. All of these answers are correct.   
  
13. A standing committee in the House or Senate   
A. is a permanent committee.  
B. has jurisdiction over a particular policy area.  
C. has authority to draft, amend, and recommend legislation.  
D. is usually organized according to the seniority principle.  
E. All of these answers are correct.   
  
14. Most of the legislative work of Congress is performed by   
A. the standing committees and their subcommittees with jurisdiction over particular policy areas.  
B. the joint committees chosen to coordinate actions between the two chambers of Congress.  
C. the select committees chosen to study special problems on a temporary basis.  
D. the steering committees that decide how the party stands on particular bills.  
E. party leaders in both chambers.   
  
15. If the Rules Committee applies the "closed rule" to a bill,   
A. no amendments will be permitted.  
B. the bill will not be allowed a vote.  
C. the bill will require a 2/3 majority for passage.  
D. no further floor debate is allowed.  
E. no filibusters will be allowed to prevent a vote.   
  
16. Through a vote for cloture, the Senate   
A. confirms presidential appointees.  
B. can end a filibuster.  
C. overrides a presidential pocket veto.  
D. accepts the House version of a bill.  
E. closes its legislative session for the year.   
  
17. Congress's inability to consistently provide leadership on broad national issues is primarily due to   
A. the lack of talented leadership in Congress.  
B. the fragmented nature of Congress.  
C. constitutional restrictions on Congress's lawmaking powers.  
D. the constant threat of a presidential veto.  
E. opposition from the mass media.   
  
18. In initiating broad legislative proposals, the president enjoys all of the following advantages over Congress EXCEPT   
A. being more likely to take a national perspective on policy issues.  
B. being granted more authority by the Constitution in the area of lawmaking.  
C. being assisted by literally hundreds of policy specialists.  
D. having the authority to make policy decisions even when there are conflicting views within the executive branch, while congressional leaders cannot impose their views on other members who disagree with them.  
E. a lack of fragmentation.   
  
19. Most members of Congress are   
A. concerned with national issues, but even more concerned with local ones.  
B. controlled by special interest groups.  
C. interested only in the work of the subcommittee on which they serve.  
D. opposed to the seniority system.  
E. more interested in oversight than in making laws.   
  
20. Which of the following statements is TRUE about congressional members over the last three decades?   
A. Republicans have become more conservative.  
B. Republicans have continued to be moderate.  
C. Republicans have become more liberal.  
D. Democrats have become more moderate.  
E. Democrats have become more conservative.